

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a cell, comprising:

irradiating a living cell or a living tissue with a laser beam with $1-100 \text{ mJ/cm}^2$ mJ/cm^2 of the energy density and $1-1000 \text{ mJ/cm}^2$ of the energy output through a hollow optical fiber filled with an inert gas; and

cutting off, removing or boring a cell wall or a cell membrane or an entirety of the cell wall thus irradiated;

wherein the cell is irradiated with the laser through reflection and condensing which are effected through a chip of quartz glass in which hydroxide groups have been introduced.

2. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the living cell or the living tissue is irradiated with the laser beam ~~has a~~ at a wavelength of 500 nm or less.

3-4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein irradiating further includes irradiating the cell through a surface of the quartz glass chip is ~~chip~~ coated with a metal.

6. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 5, wherein the coating metal is ~~irradiating further includes passing the laser beam through the surface of the quartz glass chip coated with~~ at least one metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, platinum, gold, palladium, and oxides thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the laser is at least one laser ~~irradiating is conducted with a laser~~ selected from the group consisting of an YAG laser, an excimer laser, an Ar ion laser, a nitrogen laser and a nitrogen-excited laser.

8. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, ~~which further comprises further comprising~~ introducing a ~~foreign~~ foreign matter into the living cell and/or the living tissue through a laser-irradiated portion thereof after ~~irradiation~~ irradiating the living cell or the living tissue with the laser beam.

9. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 8, wherein ~~the introducing foreign matter is at least one~~ further includes introducing foreign matter selected from the group consisting of a genetic substance, a protein, an organelle, a physiologically active substance and an indicating agent.

10. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 9, wherein ~~the genetic introducing foreign matter includes introducing a genetic substance is at least one~~ selected from the group consisting of a DNA, an RNA, an oligonucleotide, a plasmid, a chromosome, an artificial chromosome, an organelle DNA, and a nucleic acid analogue.

11-12 (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein the~~ wherein irradiating further includes passing the laser gear through an inert gas ~~is at least one gas~~ selected from the group consisting of a nitrogen gas, an argon gas and a helium gas.

14. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein a wall surface of the~~ irradiating further includes passing the laser beam through a hollow optical fiber ~~is coated~~ coated with a metal.

15. (Canceled).